

MA wall surfaces, each of said zones having a mass density different than the mass density of an adjacent zone, said fiber wall characterized by having a lower mass density zone at the inner wall surface and a higher mass density zone at the outer wall surface and passing blood plasma and toxins through said fiber wall from the outer wall surface to said interior lumen and directing said blood plasma and toxins from the patient through said interior lumen.

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended herewith by reciting that the fibers are for separating blood plasma and/or plasma components from whole blood by passing the plasma or components through the fiber wall from the outer wall surface to the interior lumen as described, for example, on page 2, lines 14-31, page 3, lines 25-29 and page 6, lines 28-30. The claim is further amended by reciting the fiber wall as having a continuum of change in mass density from the outer wall surface to the inner wall surface based on the language at page 3, line 28 to page 4, line 1. Claim 15 is amended by reciting that the membrane is for being implanted in a patient's blood vessel for carrying out the plasmapheresis or ultrafiltration as disclosed, for example, on page 2, lines 16-20. The claim is further amended by reciting that the outer wall surface is for being exposed to whole blood and that the fiber separates blood plasma and/or plasma components from whole blood by passing the plasma and components through the fiber wall from the outer wall surface to the interior lumen as previously discussed regarding the amendments to claim 1. The claim is further amended by reciting the fiber wall structure comprising a continuum of change in mass density from the outer wall surface to the inner wall surface the basis for which has been discussed regarding claim 1.

Method claims 30 and 32 are amended by adding the recitation that each fiber has an outer wall, and that the blood plasma and toxins are passed through the fiber wall from the outer wall surface to the interior lumen as also previously discussed regarding the amendments to claims 1 and 15. Accordingly, the amendments to the claims are fully supported by the original specification, and do not include the matter.

The specific changes to the amended claims are shown on a separate set of pages attached hereto and entitled VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, which follows the signature page of this Amendment. On this set of pages, the insertions are underlined while the [deletions are bolded and enclosed within brackets].

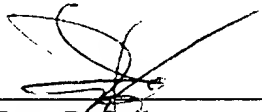
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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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asymmetrical mass density morphology between inner and outer fiber wall surfaces wherein the mass density adjacent to said outer wall is greater than the mass density adjacent to said inner wall, and passing blood plasma and toxins through said fiber wall from the outer wall surface to said interior lumen and directing said blood plasma and toxins from the patient through said interior lumen.

32. (Amended) A method of carrying out *in vivo* plasmapheresis and/or *in-vivo* ultrafiltration of a patient's blood, comprising:

implanting a filter device within a blood vessel of a patient, said filter device comprising a plurality of elongated hollow fibers each fiber having an outer wall an interior lumen extending along the length thereof and a fiber wall having a plurality of zones between the inner and outer wall surfaces, each of said zones having a mass density different than the mass density of an adjacent zone, said fiber wall characterized by having a lower mass density zone at the inner wall surface and a higher mass density zone at the outer wall surface and passing blood plasma and toxins through said fiber wall from the outer wall surface to said interior lumen and directing said blood plasma and toxins from the patient through said interior lumen.



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